311 Järvamaa. There are large areas of lowlands in Estonia and about one-third of the arable land needs drainage. Lack of capital was the chief handicap of the Estonian farmers which prevented them from carrying out proper drainage work individually. World War I, the collapse of czarist Russian currency with the Russian Revolution, and the War of Liberation ate up the nation's bank savings. In independent Estonia the government came to help the farmers in their drainage work; several rivers were deepened and ditches were dug. This aid was of great benefit to many farmers in their life-long struggle with the lowlands, while at the same time it increased the area under cultivation. In addition, a special fund was created by the government from which land improvement societies were entitled to borrow without

1:Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

654 interest for use in clearing fields, for draining,
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and so on.

134 Estonian soil is not by nature particularly
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rich and fertile; its average humus content is only about three per cent. Only by thorough cultivation and use of suitable fertilizers can Estonia yield good crops. As a result, Estonia has developed a type of mixed farming suitable to her kind of soil. In the twentieth century Estonia has been spared from famines; through careful cultivation of grain types, especially by the adaptation of winter rye to the Estonian climate, Estonia has not had a complete crop failure either by frost or by droughts.

243 Types of Produce. Grain Production. Estonian farmers cultivate rye, wheat, barley, oats and mixed grains. Great efforts were made in